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Europäisches  
Patentamt

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
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European  
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Search  
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Département à  
La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

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Erhalten  
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Strehl et al.

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EPA-53655

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01114571.1

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☒ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☒ Abstract
- ☒ Title
- ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

- ☐ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



EPO Form 1507 02.93




DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class B00, AN 1966-18957F XP002186922 -& JP 40 024515 B (KYOWA FERMENT IND LTD), 26 October 1965 (1965-10-26) * abstract *	1-5	C12N15/55 C12P19/32 C12N9/16 C12Q1/34 C12N1/21 //(C12P19/32, C12R1:19)
Y	LAIRD M W ET AL: "Essential role of the AphA periplasmic acid phosphatase in utilization of 5'-nucleotides by Escherichia coli purEK ushA phoA mutants." ABSTRACTS OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR, vol. 100, 2000, pages 435-436, XP001042299 100th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology; Los Angeles, California, USA; May 21-25, 2000, 2000 ISSN: 1060-2011 * the whole document *	1-5	
A	EP 1 004 663 A (AJINOMOTO KK) 31 May 2000 (2000-05-31) * the whole document *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) C12N C12P C12Q
A	THALLER M C ET AL: "IDENTIFICATION OF THE GENE (APHA) ENCODING THE CLASS B ACID PHOSPHATASE/PHOSPHOTRANSFERASE OF ESCHERICHIA COLI MG1655 AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ITS PRODUCT" FEMS MICROBIOLOGY LETTERS, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 146, no. 2, 1997, pages 191-198, XP001024380 ISSN: 0378-1097 --- -/--		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 June 2002	Examiner Aslund, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

16

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	ROSSOLINI G M ET AL: "BACTERIAL NONSPECIFIC ACID PHOSPHOHYDROLASES: PHYSIOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND USE AS TOOLS IN MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY" CMLS CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR LIFE SCIENCES, BIRKHAUSER VERLAG, BASEL, CH, vol. 54, no. 8, 1998, pages 833-850, XP001024401 ISSN: 1420-682X		
A,D	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 197912 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class B02, AN 1979-23055B XP002186972 -& JP 54 020195 A (AJINOMOTO KK), 15 February 1979 (1979-02-15) * abstract *		
X,D	TAO HAN ET AL: "Functional genomics: Expression analysis of Escherichia coli growing on minimal and rich media." JOURNAL OF BACTERIOLOGY, vol. 181, no. 20, October 1999 (1999-10), pages 6425-6440, XP002200195 ISSN: 0021-9193 * the whole document *	6-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	MATSUI H ET AL: "5' NUCLEOTIDASE ACTIVITY IN IMPROVED INOSINE PRODUCING MUTANTS OF BACILLUS-SUBTILIS" AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 46, no. 9, 1982, pages 2347-2352, XP001073798 ISSN: 0002-1369 * the whole document *	6,7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 June 2002	Examiner Aslund, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

16

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	NIELSEN HENRIK ET AL: "Identification of prokaryotic and eukaryotic signal peptides and prediction of their cleavage sites." PROTEIN ENGINEERING, vol. 10, no. 1, 1997, pages 1-6, XP002200196 ISSN: 0269-2139 * the whole document *	8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>5 June 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Aslund, J</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

16

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. Claims: 1-5**

A method of producing a nucleoside 5'-ester by cultivating a strain of E. coli in which the gene products of ushA and ahpA do not function normally.

**2. Claims: 6-8**

A method for identification of 5'-nucleotidases which are upregulated upon the disruption of a known 5'-nucleotidase.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 11 4571

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

05-06-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 40024515	B		NONE		
EP 1004663	A	31-05-2000	BR	9815557 A	17-07-2001
			EP	1004663 A1	31-05-2000
			CN	1270631 T	18-10-2000
			WO	9903988 A1	28-01-1999
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			JP	56012438 B	20-03-1981